Reduction of IAS/IPS in Central Services

*318. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: SHRI T. R. BALU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the strength of IAS/IPS personnel in the Central Services;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Protest by Norway for supply of Howitzer Guns to India

*319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Norway has protested against certain clause in the Sweden's contract signed in 1986 for the supply of howitzers to India, threatening that it would disrupt the supply of Norwegian components for the weapon; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for raising the objection by Norway and the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) The Government of India have not received any protest from the Norwegian Government in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Fijian Entry into Commonwealth

*320. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Fiji has sought for its admission into Commonwealth; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of India and other Commonwealth countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any formal application from Govt. of Fiji seeking re-admission to the Commonwealth. India's stand is that Fiji's re-admission can be considered only when it has complied with the Commonwealth principles including the one that forbids discrimination on the ground of race. At CHOGM last year, the Commonwealth countries in a statement hoped for a re-solution of the Fiji problem by the people of Fiji on a basis consistent with the principles that have guided the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth expressed its readiness to offer its good offices towards such a resolution and, on such basis, if the circumstances warranted, to consider Fiji's membership if asked to do so.

Child marriages

@2749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a, whether Government have made any study about the overall

@Previously Unstarred Question 2183, transferred from the 12th August, 1988.

percentage of rise in the incidence of child marriages in the country stating the names of the States where such incidence of marriages have been reported the most; and

(b) what are the weaknesses, if any, identified by Government in the implementation of law forbidding child marriage and the steps contemplated by Government to check this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for a matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Cr. P.C. 1973 (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant or without an order of the magistrate. As the provisions of the Act are sufficiently deterrent, no further action is contemplated in this regard. The practice of Child marriage has deeply embedded among certain sections of the society and any legislation, however stringent its provisions may be, would not achieve the object of stopping this practice. It is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely.

Achievements of Central Mining Research Station

@@2750. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the important achievements of Central Mining Research Station in the year 1986-87;

(b) if so, what are the achievements relating to the Coal mining;

(c) whether they are feasible; and

(d) if so, whether they have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important achievements of Central Mining Research Station relating to coal mining during the year 1986-87 are as follows:—

i. Introduction of mechanised Depillaring for extraction of coal locked up in pillars at Govinda colliery.

ii. Designed and developed a recoverable roof bolting system for supporting the freshly exposed roof which can be easily dismantled and re-used. This system has been successfully experimented at Hinger Rampur Colliery.

iii. Conducted studies resulting in higher recovery of coal from

@@ Previouly Unstarred Question 1433, transferred from the 8th August, 1988.